

**MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIALWORK**  
**February 26, 1999**

The Virginia Board of Social Work meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 1999 at the Department of Health Professions, 6606 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by Dennis L. Hawley, Chair.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Janice L. Brock  
Christina Dzierzek  
Sharon Ekleberry  
Dennis L. Hawley  
William E. Russell  
Ruth K. Van de Riet  
Fredrick D. Weston

**STAFF PRESENT:** Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director  
Janet D. Delorme, Deputy Executive Director  
Lynne Fleming, Assistant Attorney General  
Rai K. Minor, Administrative Assistant

**GUEST PRESENT:** Debra A. Riggs, Executive Director  
Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
(NASW)

The meeting was call to order by Dr. Hawley.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIORD**

There was not public comment.

**MINUTES**

The October 23, 1998 minutes of the Board were approved as written.

Ms. Brown introduced Debra Riggs, the new Executive Director of the Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

## **REPORTS**

### **NASW – Debra Riggs, Executive Director**

Ms. Riggs informed the Board she would be attending the meetings instead of a liaison. Ms. Riggs discussed Senate Bill 1004; requiring continuing education units. Ms. Riggs stated the bill is expected to pass, and if so, she would like to assist the Board with making these requirements a part of the regulations. Ms. Riggs also discussed Senate Bill 1168, requiring that the Department of Social Service and its local units not hire a person for any social work position unless that person holds at least a baccalaureate degree. Ms. Riggs stated NASW is in strong support of this bill as well. Ms. Riggs stated that some language in the bill had to be changed and a grandfather clause was added for those social workers with previous experience.

Ms. Riggs advised the Board that NASW is preparing to start a Impaired Professional Program. The Committee has been formed to organize the program. Ms. Fleming stated that the state has a Health Practitioner Intervention Program and many of the existing Peer Assistance Programs have memorandums of agreements, which give immunity for liability. Mr. Weston advised that the Board would be willing to assist the work of the program.

Ms. Brown stated that the NASW's next meeting is scheduled to take place in Norfolk, Virginia on March 26-27, 1999 and possibly a board member in the Tidewater area could attend to represent the Board. Ms. Riggs advised she would send the Board the agenda regarding that meeting.

### **Executive Director's – Evelyn Brown**

Ms. Brown distributed and highlighted bills that may affect or be of interest to the Board. Ms. Brown discussed House Bill 1976, HB2052, HB2360, HB2442, HB2452 and SB 944, SB1004 and SJR 433, and SJR 492.

Ms. Brown advised the Board the Spring Meeting for the American Association of State Social Work Boards (AASSWB) would be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 29- May2. Their annual meeting will be held December 10-12 in New Orleans.

Ms. Brown informed the Board the next Spring Meeting scheduled for AASSWB would be held in Bismarck, April 27-30, 2000 and the annual meeting in November 2000 in Phoenix.

Ms. Brown informed the Board of the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC ) is now reviewing the discipline process of the Boards. JLARC staff receives the same materials as the board members and are included in executive session. The final report is to be completed in June 1999.

### **Discipline Committee - Fredrick Weston**

Mr. Weston stated the Board currently has five (5) complaints in investigations, three (3) cases at board level, three (3) informal conferences since their last meeting and no cases returned to Enforcement for additional information. Mr. Weston advised the Board there were no reinstatement hearings and that the Board five (5) licenses on probation.

Mr. Weston stated to the Board that the AASSWB Spring Education Meeting would focus on *professional boundaries*. Mr. Weston stated the Discipline Committee would greatly benefit from attending this meeting and recommended the Discipline Committee members be granted approval to go.

Mr. Weston made a motion that the Board adopt a modified system to allow the Executive Director to conduct a preliminary review of disciplinary cases and make recommendations to Chair of the Discipline Committee or his designee for appropriate disposition of disciplinary cases. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

### **Board of Health Professions – William Russell**

Mr. Russell stated that JLARC preliminary report advised the Board of Health Professions to take a more active role in advising the General Assembly and to engage in periodic review of regulatory boards' regulations. The JLARC report also recommended that greater authority be given to the Board to resolve scope of practice disputes. In addition, that members appointed from regulatory boards to the Board of Health Professions have at least one year of experience and that the Governor appoint them based on the recommendation of their Board.

Mr. Russell stated that the Board held a forum on managed care, attend by a variety of participants. There was a recommendation that consumers should be invited to attend these forums. Another recommendation was to have the Board of Health Professions provide guidance to consumers and practitioners on standards of care issues. It was noted that the majority of consumers have an extensive variety of sources for information, however, consumers want to know more about the various boards' licensure and disciplinary functions.

### **Newsletter Committee - Ruth Van de Riet**

Ms. Van de Riet stated there was no report. However, Ms. Van de Riet advised the board that the Committee is in the process of gathering articles which need to be submitted no later than April 30, 1999.

Mr. Weston stated he would like to have the statistics of the discipline report to be included in the newsletter.

### **Regulatory Review - Janet Delorme**

Ms. Delorme stated the regulations that were amended became effective December 23, 1998. Ms. Delorme stated the Board has some issues that the regulatory committee needs to meet to Review to include continuing education and inactive licensure requirements. Ms. Delorme added that a law 1997 authorized the Board to establish inactive licensure status.

Ms. Delorme stated that the Regulatory Committee would need to review the fall survey results to determine if the Committee wanted to change some of the definitions in statute.

Ms. Ekleberry stated that the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists and Substance Abuse Professionals is proposing an amendment to their regulations changing the prohibition on dual relationships to specify that sexual intimacies with clients is prohibited for 5 years after termination of professional services and in the event of an complaint the Counselor shall bare the burden of proof there was no client exploitation.

Ms. Ekleberry stated one of the issues that the Discipline Committee struggles with is the lack of clarity of dual relationship. Ms. Ekleberry asked if the Regulatory Committee could look at forming a similar guideline defining a time period for the Board Social Works regulations. Ms. Delorme stated that the Regulatory Committee could review the dual relationship guidelines March 26, 1999 meeting.

### **AASSWB Delegate Meeting – Ruth Van de Riet**

Ms. Van de Riet stated the tier system regarding dues for AASSWB was approved. Ms. Van de Riet stated upon the recommendation of the Regulatory and Discipline Standards Committee the Assembly approved the standard for temporary practice.

Ms. Van de Riet reported that English, as a second language was not a problem for the exam for AASSWB. Ms. Van de Riet said that California would not continue using AASSWB exams, because it is developing its own examination.

Ms. Van de Riet stated that AASSWB offers a link from their website to States' website.

Ms. Brown advised the Board that Ms. Van de Riet has been appointed a member of AASSWB's Regulatory and Discipline Standards Committee.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Weston provided positive feed back on the Sex Offender Training Seminar held in November 1998.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Dennis L. Hawley, Ph.D., Chair

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Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director

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Rai K. Minor, Recording Secretary